

Medical Association, and Dr. George Kress of San Francisco, secretary of the association, explain the plan which the state organization is drafting into final form to be voted upon by the physician delegates at a convention in Los Angeles December 17.

#### WOULD BLOCK FEDERAL ACTION

Both officials warned that unless such a program is adopted, legislation, both State and Federal, which would put into effect some form of socialized medicine, is imminent.

"The heat is on from many sources for some type of medical insurance for the great middle class of our State," declared Doctor Roblee. "We have heard frequent warnings from Washington and from the President. We know from past statements, both by the governor elect and the lieutenant governor elect, that they are going to insist upon some form of adequate medical care—social medicine, if you please—during their terms in office.

"We are unalterably opposed to compulsory medical insurance. We know it would not work here. Neither would socialized medicine. We must put forward an intelligent, workable plan of our own and forestall forced adverse action by nonmedical men."

#### MONTHLY COSTS

Doctor Kress intimated that the cost of the Association's insurance probably will be about \$2.50 a month. He stated that 500,000 persons in California might take advantage of the plan. He also warned against the enactment of compulsory medical care insurance.

"If our plan will prevent the enactment of adverse legislation or the enactment of a compulsory insurance law that would change the whole picture of medical practice in California, we will not have failed," he said.

"If we are to be regimented into a program in which dull mediocrity is the rule, the service we would give would be far below the excellent standards we give gladly and freely today."

#### COMPLETING ANNUAL TOUR

Doctors Roblee and Kress are completing an annual tour of Superior California medical associations. Dr. Dave F. Dozier, president of the local association, presided at last night's meeting.—The Sacramento *Bee*, November 16.

### UNITED STATES TO KEEP SECRET NAMES OF WITNESSES AGAINST AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION\*

Justice department attorneys handling the extraordinary grand jury investigation of the fight by "organized medicine" against the group health movement decided to try to keep secret the names of witnesses to be called before the grand jury.

The inquiry will reconvene, with jurors listening to witnesses whose identity will not be revealed now, if at all. The purpose in refusing to make public in advance names of witnesses, it was explained, is to conform to Justice Proctor's admonition to keep proceedings secret.

The department, however, it is understood, intends to spend the first three or four days in calling witnesses who will give the "background" of the group health controversy, particularly from the standpoint of complaints that the American Medical Association and local medical organizations have tried to suppress the movement.

#### GROUP HEALTH ASSOCIATION CHARGES LATER

Not until then will the grand jury hear that part of the story which relates to charges that the District Medical Society, with the help of the American Medical Association, has endeavored to break up Group Health Association, Inc., local organization formed by Government workers in

the executive establishment for the purpose of spreading medical costs.

The investigation relates entirely to the district situation, and it is on this basis that indictments will be sought for violation of the Clayton antitrust act, both against leaders of the District Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

#### MAYO SURGEON WITNESS

The background testimony, designed to give the general picture for the entire country, opened yesterday with appearance before the grand jury of Dr. Hugh Cabot, Mayo Clinic surgeon and a savage critic of the American Medical Association. It is understood Doctor Cabot described the organization of the national medical group.

Doctor Cabot, as well as witnesses who will follow him in laying the groundwork for the narrative relating to the district, are appearing voluntarily. Other witnesses will be subpoenaed. Doctor Cabot concluded his testimony at the afternoon session.

Doctor Cabot's appearance launched a prosecution which—if the organizations are indicted—is due to lay squarely before the Supreme Court the long disputed problems of "socialized medicine" and Government control of the healing science.

#### TO FIGHT TO THE LAST

The American Medical Association has challenged the Government to take it to court and promised to resist to the utmost efforts to brand it as a monopoly.

Doctor Cabot has charged that private practice in this country is not able to safeguard the health of the people and has championed group efforts to place medical treatment within reach of the people generally. The American Medical Association opposition to such movements he calls "medieval."

### AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION APPROVES UNITED STATES PLAN FOR SWEEPING HEALTH PROGRAM

Washington, November 1—(UP).—Government health officials began drafting today details of an \$850,000,000 a year national health program after reaching agreement in principle with the American Medical Association.

Prominent doctors and medical economists returned home after a seven-hour conference which placed four out of five of the Government's major proposals in a state where "plans for action may now be formulated," officials said.

The program calls for:

1. A \$200,000,000 expansion of preventive public health services and broadening of the social security act to increase provisions for maternal and child care.
2. A hospital expansion program to increase the facilities available for medical care.
3. Extension of medical assistance now available to low income families.
4. Development of a plan of insurance against loss of wages during sickness.

These points were part of a broad health improvement plan advanced by President Roosevelt's special interdepartmental committee on coordination of health and welfare activities at the national health conference last July. The American Medical Association later approved them in substance.

The program would be organized on a ten-year basis. Economists estimated that \$850,000,000 would be the peak annual expenditure during that period.

On one point the conference yesterday failed to reach agreement—establishment of compulsory health insurance under Government supervision. The American Medical Association rejected that plan at the meeting of its House of Delegates in Chicago several weeks ago and yesterday's conference apparently brought the two groups no closer together on that issue.—San Francisco *Chronicle*, November 2, 1938.

\* Excerpts from a press article by Dillard Stokes.